

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-10 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 USSS-00 SAJ-01

DRC-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EB-11 /169 W

----- 060641

R 221605Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4951

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS

REFTEL: PARIS 28233; PARIS 27755

1. SUMMARY: IN RUNDOWN ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS, QUAI OFFICIAL SAID BREZHNEV-POMPIDOU SUMMIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY TO BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE. MEANWHILE SOVIET TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV DUE IN PARIS DEC. 6, AND FRENCH MINISTER OF ARMIES GALLEY TRIP TO MOSCOW SET FOR EARLY DECEMBER. QUAI OFFICIAL SAW NOTHING NEW IN REPORTS OF BREZHNEV-MARCHAIS MEETING AND DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE PRESS REPORT ALLEGING EXPULSION OF TEN SOVIETCOMMERCIAL REPS THREE WEEKS AGO. FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS CONTINUE STRAINED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITHMEMBOFF, QUAI SOVIET DESK OFFICER BROUSTE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER EXACT DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR BREZHNEV-POMPIDOU MEETING, BUT HE SAW NO REASON TO DOUBT ACCURACY OF AFP NOV. 9 DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW REPORTING THAT IT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY. HE SAID THAT THE MEETING WOULD
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BE OF AN INFORMAL NATURE SIMILAR TO THE LAST ENCOUNTER HERE

LAST JUNE.

3. BROUSTE SAID THAT SOVIET TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV WOULD VISIT PARIS DC. 6-8 FOR ROUTINE COMMERCIAL TALKS. HE ALSO CHARACTERIZED AS ROUTINE THE TRIP TO MOSCOW OF FRENCH MINISTER OF ARMIES GALLEY IN FIRST TWO WEEKS OF DECEMBER, NOTING IT WAS IN RETURN FOR GRECHKO'S TRIP TO FRANCE LAST YEAR AND THAT IT HAD BEEN POSTPONED FROM SEPTEMBER.

4 BROUSTE SAW NOTHING NEW IN L'HUMANITE ACCOUNT OF MARCHAIS NOV. 18-19 TALKS WITH BREZHNEV, BUT OBSERVED THAT PARTICIPANTS IN SUCH MEETINGS WERE GETTING PROGRESSIVELY FEWER, WITH ONLY PONOMAREV AND KANAPA PRESENT IN ADDITION TO PRINCIPALS THIS TIME. BROUSTE AGREED IT WAS LIKELY THAT JANUARY EUROPEAN COMMUNIST MEETING AND POSSIBILITY OF WORLD COMMUNIST SUMMIT DISCUSSED, BUT THOUGHT LATTER VERY UNLIKELY TO OCCUR NEXT YEAR.

5. FINALLY, BROUSTE DENIED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF REPORT WHICH APPEARED IN PARIS DAILY L'AUREOLE NOV. 22, ACCORDING TO WHICH TEN SOVIET COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVES WERE EXPELLED FROM FRANCE THREE WEEKS AGO. IN FACT, HE CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE SEEN THE ARTICLE.

6. COMMENT: THE GALLEY TRIP TO MOSCOW IS CLEARLY CALCULATED TO BALANCE HIS VISIT TO THE U.S., AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO ATTACH SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO IT. TWO MONTHS AGO, HE REMARKED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEEN PUTTING PRESSURE ON HIM FOR THE TRIP, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS VISITING THE U.S. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WOULD VISIT THE USSR AS LATE AS POSSIBLE.

7. WE AGREE THAT THERE IS NOTHING SUBSTANTIVELY NEW IN REPORT OF BREZHNEV-MARCHAIS TALK. THE APPEAL NOT TO "EASE THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA OR IN THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES" IS STANDARD; THE CALL TO COMBAT ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA ACCORDS WITH CURRENT PCF CAMPAIGN TO THAT END; AND APPROVAL OF COOPERATION WITH SOCIALISTS REINFORCES PCF-SOCIALIST "COMMON PROGRAM". HOWEVER, WE NOTE CURIOUS CONVERGENCE IN DENIAL THAT "TWO SUPER-POWERS ARE ESTABLISHING CONDOMINIUM." IN THE PAST THIS WAS REBUTTAL TO CHINESE. NOW, IT CAN ALSO BE CONSIDERED REPLY TO JOBERT'S CHARGES IN SPEECH
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LAST WEEK BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IN ANY CASE, IT SUITS EQUALLY FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS OF SOVIETS AND CONCERNS OF PCF TO DENY SUPER-POWER COLLUSION.

8. WE HAVE NO CORROBORATION OF REPORT THAT TEN SOVIET COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVES WERE EXPELLED THREE WEEKS AGO. L'AUREOLE MENTIONED THIS IN ARTICLE ON BUGGING OF FRENCH EMBASSY IN WARSAW WHICH CLAIMED THAT SECURITY ORGANS HAD OBTAINED A GREEN LIGHT

FROM THE ELYSEE TO STEP UP MEASURES AGAINST COMMUNIST ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES. AFP REPORTS THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAS FORMALLY DENIED THAT THE EXPULSIONS OCCURRED AND THAT "INFORMED FRENCH CIRCLES" HAVE DECLARED THAT THE INFORMATION IN L'AUREORE SHOULD BE IGNORED.

9. WHATEVER MAY BE THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER, IT SEEMS UNDENIABLE THAT FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS CONTINUE TO BE STRAINED. WE NOW HAVE IT FROM TWO WESTERN NEWSMEN AND FROM A SOVIET DIPLOMAT THAT THE FRENCH MADE A FORMAL PROTEST TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE OVER LACK OF CONSULTATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST (SEE PARIS 28233). ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, JOBERT WAS PARTICULARLY UPSET OVER REMARKS MADE BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR OCT. 23 AT A DIPLOMATIC PRESS LUNCHEON (PARIS 27755) TO THE EFFECT THAT FRENCH-SOVIET CONSULTATION WAS SATISFACTORY. THE QUAI ALLEGEDLY CALLED CHERVONENKO IN, HANDED HIM THE PROTEST, AND WARNED THAT IF HE MADE ANY FURTHER FALSE STATEMENTS, HE WOULD BE REPRIMENDED PUBLICLY.
IRWIN

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